

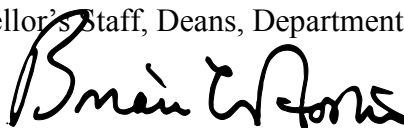
UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

March 12, 2012

TO: Provost's Staff, Chancellor's Staff, Deans, Department Chairs

FROM: Brian Foster, Provost



SUBJECT: Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs

The University of Missouri-Columbia has stunning assets in public policy and public administration—in fact, MU is committed to developing these assets into a nationally prominent, highly recognized resource for both the state and the nation. These strengths are diverse, and closely related to other campus assets that promote a strong focus on policy work in many complementary disciplines.

MU combines a prominence in national policy discussions based on its assets as an AAU university with a history and geographic location at the center of the State of Missouri. Indeed, one of MU's greatest strategic advantages is its proximity to the State Capitol in Jefferson City, which positions the campus to engage in public policy research and to serve in an unbiased way the legislative staff who support our state senators and representatives. In addition, the Institute of Public Policy, located within the Truman School of Public Affairs, has successfully performed a great deal of grant-funded policy research for state agencies and has the potential to provide even greater amounts of politically neutral, data-informed analysis for Missouri.

Key national assets stem from the notable strength of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR). In fact, two extremely influential centers—RUPRI, housed in the Truman School, and FAPRI, housed in CAFNR's Division of Applied Social Sciences (DASS)—are major presences in the federal policy arena and have received extraordinary, continuous federal funding for many years. Both are served well by OSEDA, a major data base located in DASS that serves policy researchers and state agencies in many ways. Other policy strengths include a strong College of Education, with an effective policy component that links to researchers in Economics and elsewhere, a Center for Health Policy in the School of Medicine, strong programs in Early Childhood in Human Development and Family Studies, policy work in Engineering, community development in MU Extension, and numerous other areas.

The Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs, which was founded in 2000, and is one of very few presidential schools of public policy nationwide, has the potential to bring



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together the campus's major assets into an effective policy network. Currently the School has 26 faculty members, sixteen of whom have formal salaried appointments and ten of whom combine affiliation with the Truman School with tenure homes in other units. At least thirty other MU faculty members have strong policy and/or public administration interests and research programs.

Significant repositioning of the Truman School will allow it to reach its full potential as a campus, state, and national resource. The School, which is now situated in the Graduate School with the Director reporting to the Dean of the Graduate School, will become an independent school headed by a dean who reports to the Provost as do other deans. This will position the School differently both within the campus and in the broader, national policy community. Please see the attached prospectus, written by Director Barton Wechsler, who will become the School's inaugural dean for a two-year term, for the detailed vision that underlies these changes being made for the future of public policy at MU.

BLF:td

cc: Brady Deaton, Chancellor
George Justice, Graduate Dean